

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A screw pump comprising:

a chamber defining with first and second externally threaded rotors mounted on respective shafts rotatably disposed for counter-rotation within the chamber a plurality of flow paths having respective fluid inlets wherein a first one and a second one of the respective inlets are located at a common low pressure side of the chamber and on a common plane, and wherein threads of the first and second rotors are intermeshed at a location adjacent to the first and second inlets, such that fluid entering the chamber via the first and second inlets is moved through the flow paths by the first and second rotors in a manner of positive displacement, wherein the flow paths are isolated from each other such that pressure differentials ~~can be~~ are maintained among the flow paths when the screw pump is in operation.

2. (Previously Presented) The screw pump according to claim 1 wherein a fluid outlet is located towards or at a common high pressure side of the chamber.

3. (Previously Presented) The screw pump according to claim 1 wherein the first one and the second one of the respective inlets are formed in a common surface defining the chamber.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The screw pump according to claim 1 wherein a first one and second one of the plurality of the flow paths merge at the fluid outlet of the chamber.

6. (Previously Presented) The screw pump according to claim 1 wherein a first one and a second one of the plurality of the flow paths are arranged such that fluid flows along the flow paths in substantially the same direction.

7. (Previously Presented) The screw pump according to claim 1 wherein a first one of the plurality of flow paths is defined between an internal surface of the chamber and an external surface of the first rotor, and a second one of the plurality of flow paths is defined between the internal surface of the chamber and an external surface of the second rotor.

8. (Previously Presented) The screw pump according to claim 1 wherein a first one of the plurality of inlets is at a pressure higher than a pressure at a second one of the plurality of inlets during pumping.

9. (Previously Presented) The screw pump according to claim 2 comprising a pump body defining said chamber, said body having first and second opposing plates, and wherein the first and second ones of the inlets are formed in the first plate and the fluid outlet is formed in the second plate.

10. (Previously Presented) A pumping arrangement comprising a screw pump according to claim 1, a first pumping unit having an exhaust connected to the first inlet of the screw pump, and a second pumping unit having an exhaust connected to the second inlet of the screw pump.

11. (Currently Amended) A pumping arrangement comprising:

a screw pump comprising a body defining a chamber housing first and second externally threaded rotors mounted on respective shafts rotatably disposed for counter-rotation within the chamber, the rotors defining with the body first and second flow paths passing through the chamber, each flow path having a respective fluid inlet located in said body;

a first pumping unit having an exhaust connected to the fluid inlet of the first flow path of the screw pump;

a second pumping unit having an exhaust connected to the fluid inlet of the second flow path of the screw pump; and

wherein the fluid inlet of the first flow path and the fluid inlet of the second flow path are located at a common low pressure side of the chamber and on a common plane,

wherein the first and second flow paths are isolated from each other such that pressure differentials ~~can be~~ are maintained between the first and second flow paths when the screw pump is in operation.

12. (Previously Presented) The pumping arrangement according to claim 11 wherein a fluid outlet is located at a common high pressure side of the chamber.

13. (Previously Presented) The pumping arrangement according to claim 11 wherein each one of the respective inlets are formed in a common surface of the body.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The pumping arrangement according to claim 12 wherein each one of the respective flow paths merge at the fluid outlet of the chamber.

16. (Previously Presented) The pumping arrangement according to claim 11 wherein each one of the respective flow paths are arranged such that fluid flows along the flow paths in substantially the same direction.

17. (Previously Presented) The pumping arrangement according to claim 11 wherein a first one of the plurality of flow paths is defined between the body and an external surface of the first rotor, and a second one of the plurality of flow paths is defined between the body and an external surface of the second rotor.

18. (Previously Presented) The pumping arrangement according to claim 11 wherein a first one of the plurality of inlets is at a pressure higher than a pressure at a second one of the plurality of inlets during pumping.

19. (Previously Presented) The pumping arrangement according to claim 12 wherein the fluid inlet of the first flow path and the fluid inlet of the second flow path are formed in a common surface of the body.

20. (Previously Presented) The pumping arrangement according to claim 12 wherein each of the plurality of inlets are located on a common plane.

21. (Previously Presented) The pumping arrangement according to claim 13 wherein each of the plurality of inlets are located on a common plane.